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RIGHTS OF PERSONS BELONGING TO NATIONAL, ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS AND LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

Note verbale, dated 5 March 1991, from the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Centre for Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations Office at Geneva and the international organizations presents its compliments to the secretariat of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and has the honour to request that the text in annex to this note be circulated as a document of the next session of the open-ended Working Group to consider the drafting of a declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic religious and linguistic minorities.

GE.91-11728/5735a

Clarification by the Bulgarian delegation

28 February 1991

1. The delegation of the Republic of Bulgaria greatly appreciates the efforts made by the countries which have participated in the open-ended Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights. These efforts are a considerable step forward in the further promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms and in ensuring respect for all individual rights.

2. In the absence of a definition, the use of the term "national minorities", along with all the provisions concerning the rights of individuals belonging to such minorities, where they exist, and including other similar groups, should not be interpreted as relieving any Member State of its obligation to comply with international standards on human rights and fundamental freedoms, or as contradicting in any way the principles of sovereign equality, non-violation of frontiers and territorial integrity of States.

3. Bulgaria reiterates its desire to continue to contribute to the fruitful completion of the task of the open-ended Working Group. Bulgaria declares that the texts so far adopted shall not in any way prejudice the right of the freely and democratically elected Bulgarian parliament to consider those provisions and establish legal and other means of implementing them in accordance with the sovereign will of the Bulgarian people.